



REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-33, 35, 36, 39-41, 43, 45-47, 49 and 55-76 are pending in the application, with claims 55-71, 73 and 75 being independent. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19-21, 29, 37, 38, 44 and 50-54 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22-25, 27, 28, 30-33, 35, 36, 39-41, 45-47 and 49 have been amended to even more clearly define the invention in a manner that distinguishes over the cited art. Claims 55-76 have been newly added to provide Applicants with a scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 14, 19 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the previously cited Villalpando patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 19 and 51 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 55, 57, 59 and 67. Each of these claims recites, *inter alia*, informing a host computer that a power supply is scheduled to be turned

off when it is determined, based on a condition that is acquired in response to a received signal indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed, that the condition of the printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice.

By virtue of these features, the condition of the printing apparatus need be acquired only when the signal is received indicating that the condition of the printing unit has changed. Thus, a load, associated with printing control for acquiring the status of the printing unit, can be kept light.

Villalpando is understood to disclose an apparatus providing information on a peripheral device to plural agents. The printer status is transferred from the printer to the NEB, similar in some respects to the present invention. However, the methods of how to transfer the printer status are different between Villalpando and the present invention. In Villalpando, the status from the printer is stored in the shared memory 1125 in Fig. 11. After that, the status stored in the shared memory is read out by the microprocessor 201. The microprocessor must frequently test the content of the shared memory in order to obtain the status from the printer as early as possible after

the status of the printer is changed. Therefore, the load on the microprocessor for obtaining printer status is increased.

Thus, the managed device interface 209 in Villalpando does not receive from the printer a signal indicating that a status of the printer has changed. Further, the microprocessor 201 does not acquire the condition of the printer in response to such a signal. Therefore, Villalpando fails to disclose at least the claimed features regarding reception and acquisition.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 55, 57, 59 and 67 recite features that are not disclosed or suggested in Villalpando, and request withdrawal of the rejections under § 102.

Previously pending claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20-25, 27-33, 35-37, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combination of Villalpando and previously cited Sung, Bender et al., and Sugiyama et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Previously pending independent claims 6, 15, 20, 21, 29, 37, 52 and 53 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 56, 58, 60-63, 68 and 69.

Each of claims 56, 58, 60 and 68 recites, *inter*

alia, that information of a print job is stored in a nonvolatile storage medium if it is determined, based on a condition that is acquired in response to a signal indicating that a condition of a printing unit has changed, that the condition of the printing unit corresponds to a power-OFF notice. When the power supply is turned on, information of the print job is supplied to a host apparatus on the basis of the stored information.

Each of claims 61-63 and 69 recites, *inter alia*, informing a host apparatus of a remaining paper quantity when it is determined, based on a condition that is acquired in response to a signal indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed, that the change in the condition corresponds to a change in the remaining paper quantity.

For reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with independent claims 55, 57, 59 and 67, Villalpando fails to disclose or suggest at least the claimed features regarding reception and acquisition that are recited in independent claims 56, 58, 60-63, 68 and 69.

Sung, which is cited for its disclosure regarding determination and informing, Bender, et al., which is cited for its teaching regarding a nonvolatile memory, and Sugiyama, et al., which is cited for its teachings regarding

informing multiple host apparatuses, are not understood to overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of Villalpando.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 56, 58, 60-63, 68 and 69 patentably define the invention over the cited art.

Claims 38-41, 43-47, 49-50 and 54 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Kim, et al. in view of Sugiyama, et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Previously pending independent claims 38, 41, 50 and 54 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 64-66 and 70. Each of these claims recites, *inter alia*, storing an item of condition change designated by a host apparatus in a storage medium, receiving from a printing unit a signal indicating that a condition of the printing unit has changed, and determining, in response to the signal, whether the condition change corresponding to the item stored in the storage medium has occurred. Support for these claims can be found at, for example, Figures 20 and 21 of the subject application.

By virtue of the foregoing features, the apparatus can inform the host apparatus of the condition of the printing unit when the condition corresponding to the item

designated by the host has changed.

Kim, et al. is understood to disclose an image forming apparatus having an engine controller which receives an engine state signal and determines whether data transmitted from a computer is to be received or not based on whether the engine state signal is indicative of a normal state or an abnormal state which can be promptly recovered from or an abnormal state which cannot be promptly recovered from.

Sugiyama, et al. is understood to disclose an error table ETAB in which printer errors are registered. The table includes methods how to deal with the respective printer errors.

By combining the engine controller in Kim, et al. with the table ETAB in Sugiyama, et al., the printer which determines sorts of printer errors referring to the table can be formed. However, the controller does not determine sorts of printer errors according to a designation from a host, because the controller is not understood to have storage means for storing an item of condition change designated by the host apparatus. If a user of the host hopes to change a sort of printer error which is informed by the printer, the user cannot.

Therefore, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed combination of features relating to storing, receiving and determining that is recited in claims 64-66 and 70.

Applicants do not believe the remaining cited documents overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of Kim, et al. and Sugiyama, et al.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 64-66 and 70 patentably define the invention over the cited art.

Each of new independent claims 71, 73 and 75 recites, *inter alia*, controlling an electric power supply to continue to supply electric power for a predetermined period after a power switch is turned off, and informing a host apparatus in the predetermined period after the power switch is turned off that the power supply is to be turned off. Support for these features can be found at, for example, Figure 2 and page 16, line 26 through page 17, line 15 of the subject application.

Applicants submit that none of the cited documents, whether considered individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent

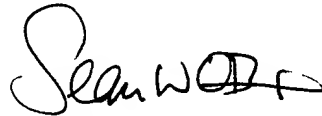
claims 71, 73 and 75 patentably define the invention over the cited art.

Each of the pending dependent claims is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons noted above for its respective base claim. In addition, the dependent claims recites features in addition to those recited in their respective base claims, and are submitted to be patentable in their own right. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in
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Respectfully submitted,



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